



# The Beach-Nut

April 2014

## WHAT'S UP? BY BRAD SCHNECK

The winter of 2013-2014 will undoubtedly go down as one to remember. Repeated snows, school cancellations/delays, and lingering cold temperatures that have everyone experiencing a bit of cabin fever.

Regardless of what mother nature issues us staff continue to work hard finalizing projects from the winter and preparing for the upcoming recreation season.

For the third consecutive year we lowered the lake 5' or greater between Nov—March to accommodate a mechanical dredge project on Starve Hollow Lake. The goal is to reclaim various areas of the lake that have silted in over the years.

Thus far we've removed sediment from the entrance area by the main office, the bay between the electric sites and cabins and the shoreline out 100' beginning from the

fishing dock by the east shelter by the beach back to the bay by the cabins.

An excavator was used to remove sediment from these areas improving depths of 0-2' to new depths of 6-8'. These improvements not only increased available fishing water but improved boat ramps and all lake front camp sites as well as several cabin sites.

Additional work is scheduled later this fall once the recreation season slows down in November.

2013 was also a special time as the property finalized the installation of 13 Rent a Camp Cabins at Starve Hollow. Renting for \$39.40/night these cabins are a deal and were a huge success last year.

Jackson-Washington will shortly resume work on the reconstruction of the Museum Shelter. As many of you may have seen we disassembled the shelter shortly after Labor Day weekend.

Aging lumber and supports were jeopardizing the structural stability and safety of the shelter.

Several smaller projects have been completed or are in the works and several staffing



Cedar Cabin

changes have occurred in the last couple years so it's a good time to get out and visit us.

Our annual Open House is scheduled for May 15th from 3-6 PM at the Starve Hollow Forest Education Center. Join staff from both properties to learn more about recent accomplishments and what to expect in 2014. A guided tour of a past timber harvest will be offered beginning at 4:30 PM. Learn about forest management and decisions foresters make while in the woods.

Can't make it? You can always check us out on the web, stop by the office during normal office hours, or give us call.

Thanks to everyone who visited us in 2013 and we look forward to seeing you in 2014.

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### Attention Neighbors!!!!!!

#### OPEN HOUSE

DATE: MAY 15

TIME: 3-6 PM

LOCATION: STARVE HOLLOW SRA - FOREST EDUCATION CENTER

STAFF FROM STARVE HOLLOW AND JACKSON-WASHINGTON WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

WE'RE OFFERING A GUIDED TOUR OF A PAST HARVEST DISCUSSING FOREST MANAGEMENT BEGINNING AT 4:30 PM. TOUR WILL BEGIN FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER.

COME OUT AND SEE WHAT'S UP ON MAY 15TH



View from camp site 5, looking south.



## JACKSON-WASHINGTON STATE FOREST

Many small projects were accomplished at Jackson-Washington in 2013. The most notable of these projects was the refurbishing of pit toilets. Several of the properties existing pit toilets were either completely gutted and remodeled or simply replaced with newer unisex Romtec toilets. All pit toilet/Romtecs on the property received a fresh coat of paint in as well.



Remodeled double vault pit toilet at the Museum



Romtec unisex style toilet installed at Archery Range

As mentioned in the opening page staff will soon begin reconstruction of the Museum Shelter. This shelter was starting to raise safety concerns due to the large amount of deteriorating lumber that was visible and signs of advanced rot. Most of

this can be contributed to the age of the shelter, but drainage of the area was having an impact as well.



Museum Shelter following disassemble

Once complete the shelter will look similar with better drainage and ADA access.

## STARVE HOLLOW STATE RECREATION AREA

A lot of time and labor hours were spent on Starve Hollow's two main projects in 2013. Those were installing the last of our 13 Rent a Camp Cabins and mechanically dredging additional areas of the lake.

We received the last of our cabins in early May and all necessary work to make them available for renting was completed by Memorial Day weekend.

All cabins are identical in structural appearance differing only by their location on the property. Each cabin has electric outlets inside and out, heat/air conditioning, ceiling fans, lights, covered front porch with swing, fire pit, and picnic table.

Inside amenities include a front and back room. The front room offers a bench style table along with a couple additional chairs and a loft above the porch. The back room offers a double

bed frame with wooden platform and a single bunk bed with wooden platforms.

**No linens or mattresses are provided.** It's recommended you bring sleeping mats or air mattresses when renting these cabins.

You get all this and the experience of the great outdoors for only \$39.40 /night.



The dredge project just completed its third winter of removing sediment from the lake. This is a huge undertaking that consumes a lot of staff time.

The goal of the project is to reclaim sections of the lake that have been lost due to siltation over the years. This siltation has restricted access or eliminated water in some cases.

Thus far we've improved 2 boat ramps, 40 lake front camp sites, 4 cabin sites, 3 fishing docks and both docks used for boat rentals. Additional benefits include increasing fishable water and assisting weed management efforts.

The next phase of this project will focus on the upper end of the lake improving the remaining cabin sites located along the shoreline and improving fishable waters.

We continue to make improvements and updates with each year that passes and as funding allows. Please take the time to visit us and see for yourself what Starve Hollow has to offer. View one of our many informational displays on the property, visit our webpage or stop by the office for a complete list of scheduled events in 2014.





## FOREST MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The IDNR Division of Forestry actively manages the 156,000 acres its empowered to manage. Each year a percentage of this acreage receives management in the form of planned and scheduled timber harvests.



Last fiscal year (FY) Jackson-Washington State Forest (JWSF) sold approximately 1,908,900 bdf and 831 cords generating \$312,662.80 in revenue. This volume and revenue was generated from 4 timber sales and 4 salvage sales impacting only 4% of the 18,000 acres available at JWSF.

The Division of Forestry annually returns

15% of the net proceeds from the sale of timber on state owned lands to the county from which the timber was sold.

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1424 allows for up to 50% of these county proceeds to be distributed among qualifying fire departments. Qualifying departments must have cooperative agreements in effect with the IDNR Division of Forestry.

Last fall the Division of Forestry presented checks to 14 counties that totaled \$314,149.10.

Jackson County received \$19,162.28 and Washington County \$31,296.26.

Up to 50% of this money can go to volunteer fire departments (VFD's) with

cooperative agreements with the Division of Forestry. Just over \$74,000 was distributed to VFD's across the state of Indiana. The 9 VFD's with agreements in Jackson County and 10 in Washington County received \$1,000 each.

Currently, the property is on pace to achieve its target of 1.9 million bdf sold for the current FY.

To learn more about the property, Division of Forestry, or Forest Certification standards that we follow, visit us on line at:

[www.in.gov/dnr/forestry](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry).

## FOREST MANAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT



**Tree-of-Heaven**

*Ailanthus altissima* or commonly known as tree of heaven, ailanthus, Chinese sumac, stinking sumac or paradise-tree is a deciduous tree native to China and Taiwan. The tree is considered an invasive species and a common problem in this part of the

US. Originally brought to our country through Europe from Asia, this tree has several characteristics that make it a threat to our forestland. These include the ability to heavily sprout once cut, produces seed at an early age, ability to produce a large amount of small seeds that can easily be dispersed by wind, can form dense thickets choking out native species, and grows rapidly and faster than our native hardwoods. The fear is its potential to displace our native plants and hardwoods.

This tree can be seen throughout much of Jackson and Washington County and is present adjacent to a lot of our state forest boundaries.

We make efforts to eradicate this species

when discovered on the state forest, but need your help.

An invasive plant is any type of plant that is not native to an area and has the ability to displace native plants.

How can you help? If you have or think you have this species on your property please make the effort to eradicate it. If you need assistance hire a professional who can provide the knowledge and skills to remove it. It's very important that if you do cut these trees down, they must be treated with a herbicide such as Tordon RTU, Pathway, or Garlon. Feel free to call our office and speak to one of the foresters if you have any questions or need assistance regarding this ecologically dangerous tree.

## EDUCATION CENTER

Unfilled vacancies in 2013 required some duty changes for various staff in 2014. Some of these changes were made at Starve Hollow and Jackson and will be visible at the education center this year.

Sandy's job duties changed greatly with lesser amounts of time being dedicated to the education center. She will continue to coordinate with a naturalist aide between May thru October for program and event planning.

We're currently seeking a summer naturalist aide that will assist with the operation of the education center from May–October. This position will

augment the time needed to operate the center in the absence of Sandy.

If you are interested in volunteering at the education center please contact Sandy Derringer or myself at 812-358-3464.

Despite the recent changes with the operation of the education center we still expect a fun filled summer with a variety of events. The following is a list of events already schedule for 2014. So mark your calendar and plan to attend.

**May 3rd - Earth Day**

**June 7th - Family Fishing Day**

**June 27 & 28 - Captain Backfire**  
(band playing on stage)

**July 5th - th of July Parade**

**July 26th - Christmas in July**

**August 9th - Smokey Bears Birthday**

**September 27th - Archaeology Day**

**October 18th - Scarecrow Building**

**October 25th - Halloween Weekend**

As a reminder, the nature center is open every weekend beginning in May thru October. Please come out and visit us.

### Jackson-Washington State Forest

1278 East State Road 250

Brownstown, IN 47220

Phone (812) 358-2160

Fax (812) 358-5837

Email: JacksonSF@dnr.IN.gov

### Starve Hollow State Recreation Area

4345 S. 275 W

Vallonia, IN 47281

Phone (812) 358-3464

Fax (812) 358-3826

Email: StarveSRA@dnr.IN.gov



### **Office Hours** **Monday - Friday** **7:30am - 3:30pm**

**Note: Starve Hollow operational hours are 7 days a week from May - October.**

#### **STAFF**

Brad Schneck—Property Manager for Starve and Jackson-Washington

Matt Wronowicz—Assistant Property Manager (Starve Hollow)

Derrick Potts—Forester (Jackson-Washington)

Sandy Derringer—Forester/Naturalist (Jackson/Starve)

Cheryl Schrader—Office Manager (Starve Hollow)

Brenda Cooper—Office Manager (Jackson-Washington)

John Smedley—Auto Mechanic (Starve Hollow)

Jeremy Steinkamp—Maint. Foreman (Jackson-Washington)

Kevin Kramer—Labor, Trade, Craft (Starve Hollow)

### **Mission Statement**

*The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry promotes and practices good stewardship of natural, recreational and cultural resources on Indiana's public and private forest lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for the present and future generations.*

JACKSON-WASHINGTON SF  
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